Flintshire County Council.



10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

ON THE

HEALTH

OF

FLINTSHIRE

DURING THE YEAR

1946.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Flintshire County Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In submitting to you my sixth Annual Report on the health of Flintshire I gratefully acknowledge the assistance I have received from you as a Council, from your Administrative Officers, from the District Health Authorities and their Officers, and from my Departmental Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. ROBERTS,

County Medical Officer.

County Health Offices,

MOLD, October, 1947.

ADMINISTRATION.

A.—DEPARTMENTAL STAFF.

County Medical Officer of Health : Aneurin Evan Roberts, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Liverp.).

Assistant Medical Officers : A. E. Gwladys Rowlands, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ; G. Wynne Griffiths, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. ; T. Wynne Brindle, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. ; W. H. Parkinson, M.D., D.P.H. (Died 6/3/46) ; Betty J. McConnell, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch. ; Edna Pearse, M.B., Ch.B., P.H.Cert. (Liverp.), (Began 11/2/46).

School Dental Surgeons : Peter Lunt, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.) ; Miss N. G. Woodward, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Edin.), (Resigned 22/3/46) ; W. B. Glynn Jones, L.D.S. ; Leslie E. Hanson, L.D.S., (Began 1/5/46) ; Betty E. Williams, B.Ch.D., L.D.S., (Began 1/5/46). One Dental Attendant assists each Dental Surgeon.

Supervisor of Midwives : Mrs. Frances M. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., R.San.Inst.Cert.

Matron-Supt. of Mental Deficiency Institution :
Miss A. E. Fletcher, S.R.N., C.R.M.P.A., F.B.C.N.

Matrons of Maternity Homes : (Mancot) Miss Elizabeth Waring, S.C.M. (Retired 15/5/47) ; Miss E. B. O'Connor, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N. (Began 1/5/47) ; (Prestatyn) Miss M. Newell, S.R.N., S.C.M.

District Health Visitors acting jointly as Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Buckley—Miss L. M. Eyes, T.N., S.C.M.

Caergwrle—Mrs. Janet Thomas (to 31/12/46), Mrs. M. E. Pearse, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert (Began 1/1/47).

Caerwys—Mrs. M. Edwards, S.R.N.

Con. Quay—Mrs. Hampson, S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V.Cert., Tb. Cert., Ep. Diploma.

Flint—Mrs. M. M. Nield, S.R.N., S.C.M., Tb. Cert., H.V.Cert.

Hawarden—Miss Elizabeth Jones (Retired 31/12/47), Miss M. A. Owen (from 1/1/47 to 7/6/47—resigned), Miss Ellen Jones (Began 1/9/47).

Holywell—Miss L. Reynolds (Retired 31/12/46), Miss A. M. Whitaker, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (Began 1/1/47).

Maelor—Mrs. M. P. Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Mold—Mrs. M. Ll. Taylor (Retired 31/12/46), Mrs. J. Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (from 1/1/47).

Northop—Miss A. Molloy, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Prestatyn—Miss M. E. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Rhyl—Mrs. A. M. Bailey (Resigned 31/8/46), Miss M. Ayrton, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (Began 1/10/46), Assistant, Mrs. Sheppard.

Infant Life Protection Visitors : The above-named Health Visitors and School Nurses, and the Supervisor of Midwives.

County Tuberculosis Visitors: Miss D. V. Gray, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., M.S.R., and Miss Gwenneth Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

County Domiciliary Midwives: (Queensferry) Mrs. E. Barker; (Flint) Mrs. D. E. Williams; (Buckley) Mrs. A. M. Saunders; (Connah's Quay) Mrs. J. E. Bennett; (Saltney) Mrs. M. E. Gibson; Mrs. F. J. Coux (Resigned 28/2/46); Miss Ivy Leece (Began 18/5/46).

Chief Clerk: William Davies, A.R.I.P.H.H. (Also Chief Clerk School Health Department).

Senior Clerks: William Ithel Roberts (County Health); Arthur Whitley (School Health).

B.—HEADQUARTERS.

County Health Offices, County Buildings, Mold.
Telephone: 106 Mold.

C.—ASSOCIATED OFFICERS.

Clerk to the County Council: Mr. W. Hugh Jones, County Offices, Mold.

County Surveyor and Architect: Mr. R. G. Whitley, A.M.I.C.E., L.R.I.B.A., (Retired). Mr. P. J. Maddicks, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., County Buildings, Mold (Since June, 1947); Deputy: Mr. W. Griffiths, L.R.I.B.A.

Supervising Officer under the Food and Drugs Act, &c.: Mr. A. E. Lindsay (Chief Constable), Police Headquarters, Mold Deceased 1947).

County Treasurer: Mr. R. J. Jones, County Finance Offices, Mold.

Public Assistance Officer: Mr. Isaac Hughes, Public Assistance Offices, Holywell.

D.—PART-TIME OFFICERS.

(Directly Employed).

Obstetric Consultant (Honorary) to the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home: Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley.

Puerperal Fever and Obstetric, &c., Specialist (Fee-paid): Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley.

Ophthalmic Consultants (Fee-paid): Mr. E. F. Wilson, Chester, and Mr. Shuttleworth, Colwyn Bay.

Public Assistance (Institutional) Medical Officers (Salaried): (Holywell) Dr. A. O. Jones; (St. Asaph) Dr. A. H. Holmes.

Public Vaccinators (Fee-paid), also Public Assistance Medical Officers: Drs. Herford, Buckley; Wm. A. Hennessey, Marford; J. G. Ll. Jones, Hawarden; R. R. Dalling, Caergwrle; I. P. Nelis, Mold; L. M. E. Milne, Flint; Jones and Morris, Holywell; J. Brown, Ffynnongroew (to 31/12/46), E. O. N. Armstrong, Prestatyn (since 1/1/47); H. S. Bell, Prestatyn; E. O. Lakey, Rhyl; A. H. Holmes, St. Asaph; W. M. Casper, Overton; R. B. McColl, Hanmer.

Health Officers for the various Sanitary Districts.

District.	Medical Officer.*	Senior Sanitary Inspector. †
Buckley Urban ...	Dr. D. Fraser, Post Office House, Brunswick Road, Buckley ...	Mr. A. G. Watkin, Council Chambers, Buckley.
Connah's Quay Urban ...	Dr. H. H. Montgomery, Dee View, Church Street, Connah's Quay ...	Mr. Henry Jones, Council Offices, Connah's Quay.
Flint Municipal Borough ...	Dr. W. A. F. Twemlow, Ivy Bank, Flint ...	Mr. W. J. Avery, Council Offices, Flint.
Holywell Urban ...	Dr. C. E. Morris, Bodowen, Holywell ...	Mr. J. Topham, U. D. C. Offices, Holywell.
Mold Urban ...	Dr. I. Philippine Nelis, The Manse, Mold ...	Mr. E. T. Williams, U. D. C. Offices, Mold.
Prestatyn Urban ...	Dr. J. Tudor Griffiths, Leaton, Prestatyn ...	Mr. I. W. Jones, Council Offices, Prestatyn.
Rhyl Urban ...	Dr. E. Hughes Jones, Council Offices, Rhyl ...	Mr. E. L. Ll. Jones, Council Offices, Rhyl.
Hawarden Rural ...	Dr. J. Llewellyn-Jones, Hafod, Station Road, Hawarden ...	Mr. M. Emlyn Thomas, Council Offices, Hawarden (No. 1 District); Mr. Watkin Williams, Hawarden Road, Abermorddu (No. 2 District).
Holywell Rural ...	Dr. I. P. Nelis, The Manse, Mold ...	Mr. D. O. M. Jones, R. D. C. Offices, Holywell.
Overton Rural ...	Dr. W. M. Casper, Overton Hall, Ellesmere	Mr. R. L. Higgins, Willow Street, Overton.
St. Asaph Rural ...	Dr. A. H. Holmes, Angorfa, St. Asaph ...	Mr. R. P. Barlow, Council Offices, St. Asaph.

* Part-time.

† Full-time.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTY.

1. AREA.

Comprising the land and the inland water while disregarding tidal water and foreshore the area of the County is 255.7 square miles, or 163,707 statutory acres, that of its separate geographical divisions being respectively: Main Division, 133,308 acres; the Maelor Hundred, 29.749 acres; the Civil Parish of Marford and Hosely, 650 acres.

2. POPULATION.

The population of the County, estimated as at mid-year, 1946, was 131,870, which is an increase of 6,200 on the previous year's figures.

3. FINANCIAL.

The product of a penny rate, computed in respect of the year 1947-48, was £3,065. The rateable value of the County as at the 1st April, 1946, was £763,529.

4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There is no important change to record under this head.

5. BIRTHS.

During the year under review, 2,632 births were registered as pertaining to the County, that total being made up as follows:—

Description.	Live..	Still.	Total.
Legitimate ...	2383 ...	81 ...	2464
Illegitimate ...	159 ...	9 ...	168
Totals ...	2542 ...	90 ...	2632

In my Annual Report for the year 1945, reference was made to the upward trend in the birth-rate which had been evident since 1932. This upward trend has been well maintained during 1946, as the figures given above represent a Live Birth Rate of 19.3 per thousand population, which is above the provisionally declared rate of 19.1 for England and Wales as a whole. (The Live Birth Rates for 1945 were:—County of Flint, 17.7; England and Wales, 16.1).

The proportion of illegitimate births per thousand total births, which in 1945 had risen to over 92, has in 1946 fallen to 63.8.

The still birth rate, which in 1945 had risen to 36.5 per thousand total births, has fallen to 34.2 per thousand in 1946.

The fact that out of every 100 children born more than 3 are stillborn calls for much research into the causes of stillbirths.

Careful enquiries are made into all stillbirths, but it is a matter of concern that in a number of cases no cause can be found.

6. DEATHS.

During the year under review, a total of 1,621 were ascribed to the County, representing a death rate of 12.3 per 1,000 population, which is higher than the rate for England and Wales, namely 11.5.

Table 2 sets out the various causes of death.

It will be observed that, as in previous years, Heart Disease is responsible for the largest number of deaths—438 or 27.0 per cent. of the total deaths.

Next follow in order of incidence Cancer with 253 deaths or 15.7 per cent. of the total, Intracranial Vascular Lesions with 202 deaths or 12.5 per cent. of the total, while Tuberculosis (all forms) was responsible for 59 deaths, or 3.6 per cent. of total. The following table shows the ages at which death occurred :—

Cause.	No. of Deaths.	Percentage of Total.	Ages. Under 15.	15-45.	45-65.	65+
Heart Disease	438	27.0 %	0	15	92	331
Cancer	253	15.7 %	4	17	83	149
Int. Vasc. Les	202	12.5 %	0	2	41	159
T.B. (all forms)	59	3.6 %	10	30	15	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—There were no deaths from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Measles, or Poliomyelitis. There were 3 deaths from Whooping Cough, and 1 death from Diphtheria. The Diphtheria and Whooping Cough deaths occurred in children below 5 years of age.

INFANT DEATHS—112 deaths occurred in Infants under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) of 44.1, which is greater than that for England and Wales, namely 43. The principal causes of infantile deaths were :—

Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	35
Premature Births	26
Pneumonia	17
Diarrhoea	7

During the last 36 years, the Infant Mortality Rate has been reduced by more than 50 per cent.—in 1911 it stood at 108, in 1946 it is 44.1. This is a considerable achievement but it still leaves room for further considerable improvement. The table given above shows that 26 or approximately one-fourth of the deaths of infants under one year of age were ascribed to prematurity. This points not only to the need for much research into the causes and prevention of premature births but also to the need of adequate facilities for the care of premature infants.

In my previous Report, I outlined generally the steps recommended to local authorities by the Minister of Health for providing for the care of premature infants. (All infants under 5½ lbs. in weight at birth are regarded as premature).

Included in these recommendations were the services of a Pædiatrician or Specialist in child health, and it was suggested that Flintshire should consider, in conjunction with neighbouring Authorities, the question of appointing such a Specialist in a whole-time capacity, to be available for domiciliary consultations as well as consultations at Clinics and Welfare Centres.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, however, the general responsibility for the provision of consultant and specialist services will rest with the Regional Hospitals Board, and as the number of pædiatricians available is small, much discussion with the Regional Hospital Board will be necessary before the implementation of such a service can be considered.

Regarding the "premature" infants notified during the year, the following statistical information may be of interest :—

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

(Ministry of Health Circular 20/44).

Description. Where born.	Number of Premature Infants who :— Were notified.	Died during the first 24 hours.	Died after 24 hours but before expiry of one month.	Survived one month.
At own home ...	47	4	5	38
In Private Nursing Home ...	17	—	3	14
In a Flints. Maternity Home (Mancot, Prestatyn or St. Asaph)	52	1	3	48
In a Flintshire Voluntary Hospital	2	1	—	1
In a Hospital outside Flintshire ...	10	—	1	9
Total ...	128	6	12	110

MATERNAL MORTALITY—Only three deaths were ascribed to causes connected with childbirth, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.14 per 1,000 total births (live and still). No deaths were ascribed to puerperal or post-abortive sepsis.

7. OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

As I have said in previous reports, many Flintshire men are engaged in occupations regarded as having a prejudical effect on health. The incidence of sickness and invalidity resultant thereon, however, is very low, and there is every reason to believe that the officers of our local authorities and of our quarries and other centres of employment are very careful and conscientious in their observance of the necessary precautions.

Table 1.

AREA AND POPULATION.

District.	Area in Statute Acres (Land & Inland Water)	Population. Estimated Mid-year.	
		1945	1946
Urban—			
Buckley	2646	6837	7348
Connah' Quay	4214	6369	6811
Flint (M.B.)	6243	11650	13160
Holywell	2532	7397	7785
Mold	1164	5514	6085
Prestatyn	3219	7873	8051
Rhyl	1700	17990	18300
Rural—			
Hawarden	31576	29700	31050
Holywell	58515	20550	21270
Overton	29749	4536	4580
St. Asaph	22149	7254	7430
Total Urban	21718	63630	67540
Total Rural	141989	62040	64330
Whole County	163707	125670	131870

Table 2.

DEATHS—GENERAL.

Summary of Causes.

Cause of Death	1946		
	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	3	3
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	22	26	48
Tuberculosis—other forms	7	4	11
Syphilitic diseases	3	1	4
Influenza	8	8	16
Measles	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis and Polio-enceph. (acute)	—	—	—
Encephalitis—acute Inf.	—	3	3
Cancer—Malignant Disease	135	118	253
Diabetes	2	14	16
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	80	122	202
Heart Disease	240	198	438
Other Diseases of the circulatory system	26	26	52
Bronchitis	55	38	93
Pneumonia	38	33	71
Other respiratory diseases	14	11	25
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	11	6	17
Diarrhoea (under two years)	5	3	8
Appendicitis	1	3	4
Other Digestive diseases	10	18	28
Nephritis	26	21	47
Puerperal and Post-abortive sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	3	3
Premature birth	18	8	26
Cong. Malf'n, Birth Injuries, &c. ...	24	13	37
Suicide	4	3	7
Road traffic accidents	10	4	14
Other violent causes	15	15	30
All other causes	59	103	162
Totals	814	807	1621

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. OFFICERS.

The names of the Officers engaged in the various branches of the public health service in Flintshire are given in the early pages of this Report.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Continued use was made during the year of all those facilities which have been previously described. In particular the services rendered by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, in connection with the bacteriological examination of water samples, etc., have been invaluable, and are greatly appreciated by all the Local Sanitary Authorities.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The private motor ambulances which serve the County are stationed at Ffynnongroew, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Prestatyn, Rhyl, Sealand and Shotton.

The County Council, by arrangement with the Chester City Council, has a motor ambulance available for accident cases occurring within a radius of 15 miles of Chester. This is the only ambulance facility provided by the County Council.

4. DOMICILIARY NURSING.

The various District Nursing Associations provide services for the general nursing of the sick in their homes, and many of these also provide midwifery services in their areas. Practically all these Associations are affiliated to the Flintshire County Nursing Association.

In addition, six midwives are employed by the County Council in a whole-time capacity as "District Midwives."

In my last Report I referred to the difficulties of some of the District Nursing Associations in implementing the provisions of the Rushcliffe Report and some re-organisation of Districts has already taken place.

I must stress the necessity for the provision of adequate transport facilities for all Nurses employed in domiciliary nursing, particularly in the rural areas. The present cost of motor cars is prohibitive for many Associations, to say nothing of the extreme difficulty in obtaining delivery of new cars. Reconditioned cars, formerly used by the Services, were said to be available for purchase by domiciliary nurses but applications for permits to purchase these have been refused by the Ministry of Transport on the grounds that the demand has exceeded the supply.

5. CENTRES AND CLINICS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

ANTE-NATAL—The following is a list of the Ante-Natal Centres which operated in the area during the year under review :—

Bagillt—Tabernacle C. M. Chapel Schoolrooms. First and third Thursdays of each month. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m.

Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. First and third Mondays. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m.

Caergwrle—Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms. First and third Tuesdays. 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. First and third Thursdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Holywell—County School Grounds. Second and fourth Thursdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mold—The Clinic, King Street. First and third Mondays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Prestatyn—Presbyterian Church Hall. First and third Fridays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Prestatyn—Chatsworth House. First and third Thursdays. 2 to 4 p.m. (Originally for "evacuee" patients).

Rhyl—The Clinic, Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Second and Fourth Wednesdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Saltney—The Clinic, Cinder Lane. First and third Mondays. 2 to 4-30 p.m.

Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Tuesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

DENTAL—Four portable dental clinics, each in the charge of a fully qualified Dental Surgeon, operated throughout the year in the interests of the children attending the primary, secondary and grammar schools.

Four female Dental Attendants also assist in the work—one with each Dentist.

In order to satisfy the requirements of the Education Act, 1944, a further increase in the staff of the Dental Service may be necessary later on.

INFANT WELFARE—The following is a list of the Infant Welfare Centres which, conducted by officers of the County Council with the efficient and generous assistance of local voluntary workers, operate in Flintshire in the interests of children of pre-school age :—

Bagillt—Tabernacle C. M. Chapel Schoolrooms. Every Thursday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Thursdays of each month.

Broughton—The Institute. Every Wednesday. 2 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. Every Monday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Mondays.

Caergwrle—Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms. Every Tuesday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Tuesdays.

Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. Every Monday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Mondays.

Holywell—County School Grounds. Every Thursday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Thursdays.

Mold—The Clinic, King Street. Every Wednesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Wednesdays.

Mostyn—Robert Davies' Memorial Hall. Fridays. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Fridays.

Prestatyn—Presbyterian Church Hall. Every Friday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Fridays.

Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Every Wednesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Wednesdays.

Saltney—The Clinic. Every Friday. 2 to 4-30 p.m.—Medical Officer attends second and fourth Fridays.

Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Tuesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer at every opening.

St. Asaph.

MINOR AILMENTS—Established by the County Council's Education Committee for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, eight Clinics operated in Flintshire throughout the year under review as follows :—

Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. Every Tuesday. 2 to 4-30 p.m.

Caergwrle—Wesleyan Chapel Schoolrooms. Every Tuesday. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends first and third Tuesdays of month.

Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. Every Tuesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Holywell—County School Grounds. Every Friday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mold—The Clinic, King Street. Every Wednesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon

Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Every Monday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Saltney—The Clinic. Every Friday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Monday and Thursday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

NOSE AND THROAT—The treatment of children of school and pre-school age suffering from chronic tonsillitis and/or adenoids is carried out at the Hospitals of Chester (Royal Infirmary), Ellesmere, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Rhyl (both the Royal Alexandra and the Prince Edward Memorial), and Wrexham (Wrexham and East Denbighshire) under arrangements made by the Authority with the respective Boards of Management. Such treat-

ment was formerly at the maximum cost of £1 only, or at reduced cost, or wholly free, to the parents (according to their capacity to pay) the Education Committee paying the Hospital charges in full; but since the 1st April, 1946, under the provisions of the Education Act of 1944, the treatment has been free of cost to the parent, the Education Committee sustaining the whole of the financial responsibility.

ORTHOPAEDIC—The following are the three Clinics at which the treatment of crippling conditions was available to Flintshire children of both school and pre-school age throughout the year reviewed :—

Holywell—Out-patient Department, Cottage Hospital. Second and fourth Friday mornings of each calendar month. Orthopaedic Nurse attends every opening. Surgeon attends every four months.

Rhyl—Clinic Rooms, Old Emmanuel School. Second and fourth Friday afternoons. Orthopaedic Nurse every opening. Surgeon attends every four months.

Shotton—Central School. First and Third Friday mornings. Orthopaedic Nurse at every opening and Surgeon every two months.

POST-NATAL—To all women who desire them, consultations with the Authority's Medical Officer are available at the Ante-Natal and the Infant Welfare Centres already described.

TUBERCULOSIS—The following Clinics—conducted by Medical Officers of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association—operated throughout the year under report :—

Holywell—Cottage Hospital. Every Tuesday. 10-30 a.m.

Penyffordd—Meadowslea Hospital. Monday and Thursday afternoons (by appointment only).

Queensferry—Oaklands, near The Cross. Every Wednesday. 10 a.m.

Rhyl—27, Edward Henry Street. Every Friday. 10 a.m.

The Queensferry Clinic above referred to serves for the time being the areas of Queensferry, Shotton, Connah's Quay, Sandycroft, Sealand, Hawarden, Buckley and Mold.

VISUAL DEFECTS—Defects of vision in school children are dealt with by an Assistant School Medical Officer who possesses an eye-testing outfit usable in any suitable room in a school or clinic. Spectacles are now prescribed under this scheme and supplied (through local opticians) free of cost to the parents.

Cases needing the attention of an Eye Specialist are referred to the authorities of the Chester Royal Infirmary, with whom the Education Committee have an arrangement providing for the refractional treatment of such children, the Committee sustaining the cost at the rate of 10/6d. per case so referred and treated.

Children suffering from squint are also treated (at the Infirmary's Orthoptic Department) under this Scheme.

VENEREAL DISEASE—A Department of the Royal Infirmary, Chester, is an approved Treatment Centre—within the meaning of Article III of the Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations, 1916—where treatment is available to Flintshire patients under an agreement made between the Infirmary's Board of Management and the Flintshire County Council. Opening four times weekly the Centre's arrangements are as follows :—

Male Patients—Every Wednesday, 5 to 7 p.m., and every Saturday, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Female Patients—Every Monday, 5 to 7 p.m., and every Thursday, 5 to 7 p.m.

The number of persons who availed themselves of these treatment facilities during 1946 is given in Section F of this Report.

Flintshire patients may also be treated at the Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital, Wrexham, which opens for males on Mondays, 5 to 7 p.m., and for females on Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.

6. HOSPITALS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

GENERAL—Available to local patients, the general (voluntary) hospitals situated in the County are the Cottage Hospitals of Flint, Holywell and Mold, the Prince Edward War Memorial Hospital, Rhyl, and the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

The Public Assistance Hospital at St. Asaph admits maternity, acute and chronic medical, and acute surgical cases. The Public Assistance Hospital at Holywell admits chiefly cases of the chronic medical type.

Of the hospitals situated outside the County those most frequently used by Flintshire residents are the Royal Infirmary, Chester, the Denbighshire Infirmary, Denbigh, the Ellesmere Cottage Hospital, the various large hospitals of Liverpool, the Whitchurch Cottage Hospital, the Wrexham War Memorial Hospital, and the Wrexham Emergency Hospital.

It has long been apparent that the hospital accommodation provided in the County has been inadequate to meet the needs of the population and this is stressed in the Report on the regional survey made by Sir Ernest Rock Carling and Dr. McIntosh on behalf of the Minister of Health. The Report recommends the provision of a 500 bedded hospital in the Rhyl-St. Asaph area, which would provide for the needs of the population in not only the western portion of the County of Flint but also the neighbouring portion of the County of Denbigh, covering approximately 100,000 persons.

Under the National Health Service Bill of the Coalition Government it would have been the duty of the County of Flint, or the Counties of Flint and Denbigh jointly, to give due consideration to that recommendation. Under the National Health Service Bill of the present Government, however, the planning and administration of all hospital and consultant services are to be transferred to the Regional Hospitals Boards which will be appointed by the Minister of Health.

These Regional Hospitals Boards will have a vast amount of work before them and when formulating their plans for the new Hospital services will in all probability consult the Local Health Authorities (County and County Borough Councils). In order to be fully prepared, the Council has established a Joint Hospitals Committee, consisting of members of the Public Health Committee, the Public Assistance Committee and representatives of the voluntary hospitals, in order to investigate fully the hospital needs of the County.

ISOLATION—Three Isolation Hospitals served the needs of the County during the year under review—those at Hawarden, St. Asaph and Towyn. The premises at Towyn, however, are no longer used as a hospital, patients from the area of the Rhyl Urban District Council, to whom it belongs, being now sent to St. Asaph.

MENTAL—The County is served by the North Wales Mental Hospital, Denbigh, in respect of the treatment of lunatic and certain other mentally defective persons, including voluntary patients.

Towards the end of 1946 arrangements were made with the Medical Superintendent of the North Wales Counties Mental Hospital for the establishment of a Psychiatric Clinic and a Child Guidance Clinic at Rhyl. Both these Clinics are staffed by members of the staff of the Mental Hospital, and the Clinics commenced to operate on January 1st, 1947.

Mental Deficiency Institutions are dealt with in Sections B(7) and K of this Report.

ORTHOPAEDIC—Flintshire cripples are treated at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen, Shropshire, in accordance with the arrangements described in previous Reports.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—Situated within the County, and owned by the County Council, there are two Public Assistance Hospitals—one at Holywell and one at St. Asaph.

Also utilised under arrangement, but situated outside the County, are the two Public Assistance Hospitals of Ellesmere and Whitchurch.

SMALLPOX—The Smallpox Hospital at Rhydtalog is available for the admission of both Flintshire and Denbighshire patients, the Councils of both Counties constituting a Joint Authority.

TUBERCULOSIS—The examination, supervision and treatment of persons suffering, or suspected to be suffering, from this disease, is carried out on behalf of the County Council by the Welsh National Memorial Association, whose several modern and well-equipped Hospitals are available to Flintshire patients.

The only tuberculosis Hospital actually within the County is that known as "Meadowslea" and situated at Penyffordd, half-way been Mold and Chester.

7. INSTITUTIONS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

BLINDNESS—The "Llys Onnen" Home for the Blind, situated at Abergele, Denbighshire, is a residential and holiday home for blind persons who are under the supervision of the North Wales Society for the Blind. Opened during the later months of 1942, it can accommodate one blind person permanently from Flintshire, and others, temporarily, for short holiday periods.

The education of blind children at special schools is, of course, arranged by the Education Committee.

CONVALESCENCE—The convalecent homes in the County are all situated at Rhyl. Voluntarily established and controlled, they comprise :— The Royal Alexandra Convalescent Home, The William and John Jones Convalescent Home, The Men's Convalescent Institution (Bedford Street), The South Yorkshire Miners' Home (Colet House, East Parade), The Stoke-on-Trent Children's Convalescence and Holiday Home (Chester Street) and the Women's Convalescent Home (Church Street).

The Royal Alexandra Convalescent Home, Rhyl, which was only available to a very limited extent for convalescents during the war years, has now been able to extend its facilities so as to reach almost normal capacity.

The following Rhyl Convalescent Homes have resumed normal activities : The South Yorkshire Miners' Home (Colet House, East Parade), The Stoke-on-Trent Children's Convalescence and Holiday Home (Chester Street), and the Women's Convelescent Home (Church Street).

MATERNITY—Accommodation is provided for normal maternity cases at the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, and at Chatsworth House, Prestatyn, for normal and abnormal cases at the St. Asaph Public Assistance Hospital, and for other abnormal cases (after consultation with Mr. Wigley, the Consulting Obstetrician) at the Chester City Hospital.

The necessity for the retention by the Authority of Chatsworth House as a Maternity Home has become increasingly obvious. It is extremely well situated and would provide the nucleus of the much needed fully equipped maternity hospital, which could provide all maternity facilities for the western portion of the County.

In addition, maternity beds to the total number of 33 are available at the 12 private Nursing Homes in the County, to which Nursing Homes the Council's Supervisor of Midwives paid 144 inspectional visits during the year.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY—Three Institutions serve the County as certified Mental Deficiency Institutions— those at Broughton (temporarily removed to Fronfraith, Rhyl), St. Asaph, and Holywell. The Board of Control's approval of these has been received.

The Institution situated at Coed Du, Rhydymwyn, Flintshire, belongs to Denbighshire,

NURSING—Registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act there are 12 private Nursing Homes in the County, all of which are periodically visited and supervised by the Council's Supervisor of Midwives.

Of the beds provided at these Homes, 33 are for maternity and 6 for general nursing cases.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—The Public Assistance Institutions which serve the needs of Flintshire are those previously mentioned under this heading as Hospitals.

8. HEALTH SERVICES—NON-INSTITUTIONAL.

(Arranged alphabetically).

ANTE-NATAL—The welfare of Expectant Mothers who do not attend the Authority's Ante-Natal Centres is supervised in Flintshire by the private medical practitioners, the several practising midwives, county and private, and by the County Council's Health Visitors.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION—As will be gathered from Table 12 of this Report, the requirements of the Notification of Births Act are conscientiously observed in Flintshire.

BLINDNESS—Non-Institutional provisions made by the Council in favour of the blind persons of Flintshire include—(1) medical examination by a Specialist; (2) direct medical advice and treatment; (3) financial aid; (4) material aid in kind, i.e., clothing, boots, etc.; (5) home teaching; (6) visitation by expert supervisors.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION—The Council's Health Visitors are also Child Life Protection Visitors within the meaning of Section 209 of the Public Health Act of 1936, and all the foster children who are statutorily registered as such are duly visited and supervised.

CONVALESCENCE—A section of the work of the Flintshire Ailing Children Trust (Organiser: Miss Gwendolen Davies-Cooke) is devoted to the interests of children aged under 5 years, and in recognition of this the County Council make a small grant annually towards the Trust Funds. Owing to abnormal conditions, however, only a limited number of children can now be admitted to the Convalescent Home (at Rhyl).

HOME HELPS AND DOMESTIC HELPS—In order to meet the domestic needs of women who are unable to make satisfactory arrangements of their own at the time of their confinement, some Welfare Authorities have included the provision of Home Helps as part of their Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

Similar schemes have been suggested for providing assistance at home for the care of young children and also of the aged.

Repeated efforts made through the Employment Exchanges and voluntary organisations to find persons willing to undertake such work were unsuccessful.

HOME NURSING—Home Nursing is carried out in this County only by the District Nurses belonging to the various Nursing Associations and by Nurses practising independently.

INFANT WELFARE—Twelve trained and experienced Nurses serve the County as Health Visitors, their duties including the regular and systematic visitation of children aged under five years. These Nurses are notified of all births occurring in their areas and they visit the infants as soon as possible after the Midwife has ceased to attend. Repeat visits are then made as and when required until the children reach the age of five years.

An additional Nurse assisted temporarily at Rhyl throughout the year.

LABORATORY WORK—Reference to Section B (2) of this Report will indicate that the County is very well served by the facilities provided (at Conway) by the Medical Research Council.

MATERNITY (GENERAL)—Available to the women of Flintshire the following services—all elsewhere mentioned in this Report—have been provided by the Authority :—ante-natal supervision, hospital treatment, maternity home accommodation, medical aid (to midwives), obstetric consultations (specialistic), post-natal supervision and puerperal fever consultations (specialistic).

To this list may of course be added the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease, free of cost to patients desiring it.

MATERNAL MORTALITY—The previously described assistance rendered to the Ministry of Health Maternal Mortality Committee was continued throughout the year.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY—The welfare of mentally defective persons not in institutions is supervised, under the direction of the Authority's Mental Deficiency Committee, by members of the County Council, the Authority's Medical Officers, and Health Visitors. These visit the defectives at their homes and report to the Committee quarterly and at other times as may be necessary.

MIDWIFERY—The County possesses an efficient midwifery service consisting of privately practising Midwives, Midwives belonging to District Nursing Associations, Institutional Midwives and County Domiciliary Midwives.

Particulars of these are given in Section H of this Report.

Medical aid is, of course, available to all Midwives under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918.

MILK—Pasteurised or other approved milk was supplied to school children in the County at ½d. per one-third pint—free of charge to those whose parents were unable to pay this amount. Since the 6th August, 1946, however, such milk has been supplied by the Education Committee free of charge to all children attending schools maintained by the Authority.

The quality of this milk is supervised by the School Medical Officer, who frequently takes samples for bacteriological examination.

The general milk supply is supervised in the County by the Local Sanitary Authorities, whose officers periodically visit and report upon the milk shops, dairies, etc., and the work of eliminating tuberculosis from the milk produced in the County is carried out by the resident Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

OBSTETRIC DIFFICULTIES—As mentioned in the early pages of this Report, the services of Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley, of Chester, are available to Flintshire patients requiring expert treatment under this head.

ORTHOPAEDICS—Provision exists for the orthopaedic treatment of infants aged under five years who are suffering from crippling defects. Similar arrangements, conducted by the Education Committee, exist on behalf of children of school age, and persons aged over sixteen years are likewise provided for by the voluntary body known as the Flintshire Orthopaedic Voluntary Organisation.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—Every case notified is referred to the Authority's Supervisor of Midwives who immediately visits to ensure that efficient treatment is made available to the infant. When medical treatment is domiciliary unavailable or inadequate, the child concerned is admitted to the Royal Infirmary Chester—usually under voluntary arrangements but at the expense of the County Council if the parents cannot privately afford the Infirmary's fees.

The issue to the Midwives of a prophylatic drug for use in preventing the onset of this disease is still continued.

OUTBOARDED CHILDREN—Arrangements have now been made for the special supervision (by the Council's Nurses) of all the Flintshire children who have been outboarded with foster parents by the Education Committee and also those outboarded by the Public Assistance Committee. The Nurses pay domiciliary visits and report periodically on each child to the School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—For the purpose of administering this form of relief the County is divided into four Districts (Hawarden, Holywell, Overton and St. Asaph) each under its "Guardians Committee" and having its own medical staff. Of these medical officers, none is, at present, engaged in such work in a whole-time capacity.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA—The provision made by the Authority on behalf of women suffering from puerperal pyrexia include the following :— Hospital Accommodation (at St. Asaph Isolation Hospital), Specialistic Aid (the services of a Consultant), Home Nursing (by experienced Nurse) if considered necessary, and Bacteriological Examinations (services of Pathologist).

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN—The supervision of the health of the children attending the Schools of our County—a duty which devolves upon the County Council as the Local Education Authority—forms the subject of a separate report submitted annually to the Authority's Education Committee.

TUBERCULOSIS—The "After-care" Scheme instituted by the Authority in 1941 continued to function throughout the year under review. Designed to expedite the recovery of persons suffering from tuberculosis by assisting them financially and/or in kind, thereby eliminating their domestic anxieties in a substantial degree, it very soon showed its value as a health measure, and is now an important branch of the Council's health services.

Under this scheme maintenance allowances, discretionary allowances and special allowances are available to persons who are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and who have given up remunerative employment in order to undergo treatment. Such allowances continue, under periodical review, so long as the Tuberculosis Physician certifies that there is a prospect of the patient being restored to working capacity. All expenditure under this scheme is fully reimbursed to the Authority by the Ministry of Health.

237 persons received assistance, and the Authority's two Tuberculosis Visitors paid an aggregate of 3,165 visits to the homes of these persons, during the year under report.

VENEREAL DISEASES—Mention has already been made of the hospital and clinical facilities provided for the treatment of these diseases. Arrangements exist, however, for the payment of the expenses incurred by patients in travelling to and from the Treatment Centre. These are paid in the first instance directly to the patient by the Hospital authorities, and the amounts are refunded quarterly by the County Council. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that this provision exists only on behalf of patients who cannot afford the payments themselves.

Section C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The supervision of closet accommodation, provision for refuse collection and disposal, cesspool cleaning, the sanitary inspection of their respective areas, the inspection and supervision of shops, offices and camping sites, the abatement of nuisances, including any arising from smoke, the supervision of swimming baths and pools, disinfection and disinfestation—all these are included in the duties which devolve primarily upon Local Sanitary Authorities and upon which the respective District Medical Officers of Health are required to report annually and, when necessary, specifically.

Concerning drainage and sewerage, rivers and streams, school sanitary conditions, water supplies, etc., there is nothing of special interest to report in respect of the year under review.

Section D.—HOUSING.

HOUSING—The various Acts and Regulations pertaining to this subject are administered by the Local Sanitary Authorities, whose duties also include the inspection and supervision of the housing conditions of their respective areas.

Section E.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

ADULTERATION—The arrangements made to ensure that food-stuffs sold to the public for human consumption are unadulterated, are outlined in the various appropriate paragraphs of this Section.

ANALYSIS OF FOODSTUFFS—The specimens of food and drugs taken by the various Inspectors for analysis are sent to the County Analyst, whose reports are submitted to the Council's Public Health Committee.

FOOD AND DRUGS—The provisions of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, which is administered by the County Council (the executive work being carried out by duly appointed officers of the County Police acting under the direction of the Chief Constable) have been outlined in previous reports.

353 samples were formally taken during the year under review, and of these, 53 were found to be below standard. Appropriate action was taken by the Chief Constable against the offenders.

The "below standard" articles were :—Milk 46; Creamola 1; Dried Peas 2; Sponge Mixture 1; Green Peas 1; Oatmeal 1; Vinegar 1.

ICE CREAM—9 samples were taken during the year and all were found to be genuine.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—The supervision of the general food supply, involving at least the registration, inspection, etc., of bakehouses, slaughter-houses, shops, stalls, vehicles and all the other places where food is prepared, commercially handles or exposed for sale, is a duty which devolves upon the Local Sanitary Authorities.

MILK (ARTIFICIAL CREAM)—No sample was taken for analysis during the year under report.

MILK (CONDENSED)—No sample was analysed during the year under report.

MILK (DRIED)—No sample of this was taken during the period under report.

MILK (HOUSEHOLD)—One sample was taken and found to be genuine.

MILK (FRESH)—The parts of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, administrable by the Local Sanitary Authorities were duly observed by the various Authorities and their requirements carried out.

Also carried out were the requirements of Part IV, which, formerly devolving upon the County Council, now form part of the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture's Divisional Inspector.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Order of 1936, certificates issuable by the Clerk of the County Council were held by Flintshire producers at the close of 1946, as follows :—For the sale of milk with the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" 51 ; for the sale of milk designated "Accredited" 665.

The corresponding figures on the 30th September, 1947, were respectively, 62 and 642.

One report only was received concerning tubercular milk alleged to have been sent by Flintshire producers to neighbouring authorities. This (from the Borough of Wallasey) was duly investigated and satisfactorily dealt with.

NUTRITION—Except by the means ordinarily employed in the Maternity and Child Welfare Services in connection with the dissemination of information relating to food values and nutrition generally, the Authority took no action during the year in regard to this subject.

PRESERVATIVES—The arrangements made to ensure that the foods consumed by the public are free from dangerous preservatives are outlined in a preceding paragraph. Regulations bearing on the subject are issued by the Ministry of Health from time to time.

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCAN)—The duty of reporting upon shellfish beds or layings, is one which devolves upon the Medical Officer of Health of the Sanitary Districts in which such beds or layings are situated.

Section F.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A.—ADMINISTRATIVE.

DISINFECTION—The disinfection of premises, clothing, bedding, etc., after infectious disease is a duty which devolves upon the Local Sanitary Authorities, the work being generally carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

INCIDENCES—The diseases which were notified in Flintshire during the year under review, are shown numerically in Table 5 of this Report. No case was notified of any notifiable disease which is not named in such table.

LABORATORY WORK—The laboratory facilities available at Conway were extensively used, during the year, by medical officers of the County Council and the Local Sanitary Authorities, and also by many general medical practitioners. This laboratory also rendered invaluable assistance in connection with the supplying of material for diphtheria immunisation work and in other ways.

SERA, SPECIAL TESTS, ETC.—The availability to the public of sera such as diphtheria anti-toxin or anti-meningocuccus serum is a matter which primarily concerns the Local Sanitary Authorities.

B.—DISEASES.

CANCER—There were during the year under report 10 more deaths from this disease in Flintshire than during the preceding year, the respective figures being (1942) 208, (1943) 223, (1944) 240, (1945) 243, (1946) 253.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER—9 cases of this disease among civilians were notified during the year, and 2 deaths occurred.

It is interesting to note that in 1940 and 1941 the notified cases numbered 111 and 85 respectively.

DIPHTHERIA—33 cases were notified, and 1 death occurred in the course of the year. During 1945 the respective figures were 108 and 10, and during 1944, 316 and 10.

The work of immunising the juvenile population goes on systematically. At the end of the year under report, according to figures supplied by our District Health Visitors 6,415 children aged under five years had been immunised, i.e., 64.2 per cent. of the child population of the "under 5" age group. Of this number, 2,068 were reported to have been immunised during the year under review.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—Statistics relative to this disease appear in the Section of this Report which relates to Infant Welfare.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA—Additional particulars concerning this condition will be found in the Section headed "Welfare of Mothers."

SMALLPOX—850 successful primary vaccinations of children born in 1945 were effected during the year under review.

VENEREAL DISEASES—The number of Flintshire persons newly dealt with at the Treatment Centre (Chester) during the year under report, excluding those known to have been treated elswhere, was 158, the figure being made up as follows :—Syphilis, 38 ; Gonorrhoea, 60 ; Soft Chancre, 0 ; Non-venereal or Undiagnosed Conditions, 60.

These patients made 2,008 attendances during the period reviewed, and 1,113 pathological examinations were carried out at the Treatment Centre's Laboratory.

In addition to the foregoing the following Flintshire patients exclusive of 21 diagnosed as "non-venereal" were treated at the Treatment Centres specified :—Bangor, 1 ; Liverpool, 6 ; Shrewsbury, 1 ; Wrexham, 3.

Under Regulation 33 B, 5 female contacts were notified on Form 1 during the year, 4 of whom were persuaded to undergo examination at the Treatment Centre.

TUBERCULOSIS—Numerical particulars of the deaths registered during the year as due to this disease are reported in Tables 3 and 4 of this Report.

The number of formal primary notifications received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, was 207, made up as follows :—Pulmonary 166 (Males 91, Females 75) ; Non-pulmonary 41 (Males 26, Females 15).

Other than by formal notification, 11 cases came to the Authority's notice during the year, the number being made up as follows :—Pulmonary 6 (Males 3, Females 3) ; Non-pulmonary 5 (Males 2, Females 3).

No special action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The beneficent work of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association was of course continued throughout the year.

During the year under report, 237 applicants received assistance in cash and/or in kind under the After-care Scheme, as compared with 216 in 1945 and 161 in 1944.

PARALYSIS : OUTBREAK AT RHUDDLAN—In the last two weeks of 1945, a number of cases of Paralysis occurred in Rhuddlan. The first cases were originally thought to be due to Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) but

it soon became evident that this diagnosis was incorrect, and that the cases were cases of Peripheral Neuritis. In all 28 persons were affected and they were of all ages—school children and adults.

The Paralysis affected the feet first and later the hands. The onset was sudden, with no apparent prodromal symptoms, and the cases were scattered indiscrimately throughout the village. The degree of Paralysis varied considerably. Efforts to discover the causal agent of the Paralysis were unsuccessful, and the aid of a Medical Officer of the Welsh Board of Health was obtained. Later it was ascertained that a similar outbreak had occurred at the same time in the Bebington area of Cheshire, and finally the two outbreaks were found to be intimately connected. The cause of the Paralysis was found to be a chemical substance which had contaminate certain edible oils which had been used for cooking purposes.

All the cases were examined by the Orthopaedic Surgeon and by a Neurologist. They were treated at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen, and later as out-patients at a special clinic established in Rhuddlan. I am glad to state that all except two have made full recovery. The two cases still under out-patient treatment have made considerable progress, and it is anticipated that in time they will have recovered compelely.

I must express my great appreciation of the assistance given by Dr. Trevor Jones of the Welsh Board of Health, the Flintshire Police, and the Rhuddlan Parish Council, and of the prompt action of the Head Teacher of Rhuddlan School in bringing the first cases to my notice.

Table 3.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS.

District.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		All Forms.		Grand Total.
	M*	F†	M*	F†	M*	F†	
Urban—							
Buckley	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Connah's Quay	3	2	—	—	3	2	5
Flint (M.B.)	3	—	2	—	5	—	5
Holywell	1	1	1	—	2	1	3
Mold	—	1	1	—	1	1	2
Prestatyn	3	—	1	—	4	—	4
Rhyl	3	3	—	1	3	4	7
Rural—							
Hawarden	6	10	—	1	6	11	17
Holywell	3	6	—	1	3	7	10
Overton	—	—	2	—	2	—	2
St. Aaph	—	2	—	1	—	3	3
Urban District	13	8	5	1	18	9	27
Rural Districts	9	18	2	3	11	21	32
Whole County	22	26	7	4	29	30	59

* Males. † Females.

Table 4.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		All Forms.		Grand Total.
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0—	1	1	1	1	2	2	4
1—	—	1	2	1	2	2	4
5—	—	—	2	—	2	—	2
15—	7	22	1	—	8	22	30
45—	13	2	—	—	13	2	15
65—	1	—	1	2	2	2	4
Totals	22	26	7	4	29	30	59

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (GENERAL)—The following notifications of Infectious Disease were received from the District Medical Officers of Health during the year :—Cerebro-spinal Fever, 12 ; Chicken Pox, 0 ; Diphtheria, 34 ; Dysentery, 2 ; Encephalitis Lethargica, 0 ; Enteric Fever (Typhoid), 0 ; Erysipelas, 39 ; Malaria, 0 ; Measles, 105 ; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 3 ; Paratyphoid, 1 ; Pemphigus Neonatorum, 0 ; Poliomyelitis, 2 ; Polio-encephalitis, 1 ; Pneumonia, 164 ; Puerperal Pyrexia, 11 ; Rubella, 0 ; Scarlet Fever, 247 ; Smallpox, 0 ; Tuberculosis (see Special Tables) ; Whooping Cough, 82.

Section G.
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Particulars of the Institutions concerned with, and the personnel engaged in, the administration of public assistance have been given in early pages of this Report.

I now present statistics relative to this Service in its association with Maternity and Child Welfare :—

Table 6.
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.
(Maternity Service).

Description.	Holywell.	St. Asaph.
1. No. of Maternity Beds on last day of year ...	—	24
2. Beds (included above) reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment ...	—	3
3. Maternity cases admitted during the year ...	—	218
4. Women (included in No. 3 above) treated during the year in the beds referred to under No 2. (above)	—	17
5. Average duration (in days) of treatment of expectant mothers in the beds shown against No. 2 (above)	—	14
6. Average duration of stay of cases included against No. 3 (above) ... Days	—	12
7. Cases delivered by Midwives	—	183
8. Cases delivered by Doctors	—	28
9. Cases in which medical assistance was sought by a Midwife in emergency	—	—*
10. Cases admitted after delivery	—	7
11. Cases notified as Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2
12. Cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum	—	—
13. Infants not entirely breast-fed	—	33
14. Infants wholly breast-fed on leaving ...	—	164
15. Cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	1
16. No. of Maternal Deaths	—	1
17. No. of Stillbirths	—	18
18. No. of Infants Deaths	—	9

* Medical Officer notified of every case when in labour.

Section H.

WELFARE OF MOTHERS.

ANTE-NATAL SERVICES—The activities of the Ante-natal Centres mentioned in this Report are indicated, in respect of the year under review, in the following Table :—

Table 7.

ANTE-NATAL ATTENDANCES OF WOMEN AT CENTRES.

Centre.	Number of Sessions.	Patients dealt with			Aggregate Attend-ances.
		Old* Cases	New Cases.	Total Cases.	
Bagillt	21	4	39	43	121
Buckley	21	3	55	58	174
Caergwrle	22	3	32	35	97
Flint	20	9	135	144	545
Holywell	21	9	130	139	443
Mold	21	22	139	161	581
Prestatyn	22	13	95	108	418
Rhyl	22	9	117	126	507
Saltney	21	10	48	58	220
Shotton	48	42	292	334	1280
Totals	—	124	1082	1206	4386

* Patients whose names were on the books at the beginning of the year.

Midwives are strongly encouraged in this County in connection with the work of supervising expectant mothers and it can truthfully be said that the great majority of those who book their Midwives reasonably early are visited and re-visited by the Midwives concerned.

During the year under review the Midwives of Flintshire—in their capacity as Midwives, not at Maternity Nurses—paid 5,729 ante-natal visits to patients. As Maternity Nurses they paid an additional 3,038 visits.

The Authority's Health Visitors also render useful service in connection with the supervision of expectant mothers. They paid 1,034 visits during the twelve months under report.

POST-NATAL SERVICES—It is highly gratifying to find that so many women attend the Centres after their confinement, as such consultations enable the Medical Officer to ascertain whether the patient is suffering from any disability consequent upon parturition, and, if so, to advise her appropriately regarding treatment,

Table 8.

POST-NATAL ATTENDANCES OF WOMEN AT CENTRES.

Centre.	Patients dealth with Old* Cases.	New Cases.	Total Cases.	Aggregate Attend-ances.
Bagillt	—	3	3	4
Buckley	2	2	4	8
Caergwrle	—	3	3	3
Flint	2	11	13	18
Holywell	4	6	10	15
Mold	3	9	12	16
Prestatyn	2	7	9	10
Rhyl	2	9	11	15
Saltney	—	4	4	6
Shotton	6	32	38	76
Totals	21	86	107	171

* Patients whose names were on the books at the beginning of the year.

MATERNITY INSTITUTIONS—The oldest established of these is of course the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, particulars of which have been given in past Reports. At this Maternity Home no fewer than 313 patients were admitted during the year under review.

Women admitted to the Chatsworth House Maternity Home, Prestatyn, during the year numbered 221, and to the St. Asaph Public Assistance Hospital 218.

At the 12 private institutions registered under Section 187 of the 1936 Public Health Act, 33 beds were provided for the accommodation of maternity cases and 6 for others. 144 visits were paid to these Nursing Homes by the Authority's Supervisor of Midwives during the year under report.

MIDWIFERY—From a Table which follows, it will be gathered that 94 Flintshire Midwives were in practice in the County at the end of the year, 29 of these being in the direct employ, institutionally or otherwise, of the County Council.

The supervision is maintained on behalf of the Council by the County Medical Officer, the visitation and executive work being carried out by a full-time Supervisor who, in the course of the year under report, paid 352 inspectional and 409 special visits (vide Table 10).

The number of cases attended by the Midwives acting at Midwives during the year was 1,716, and the number attended by them as Maternity Nurses was 797.

The various notifications received from the Midwives during the year totalled 756, of which 556 announced their having "called in medical aid."

Midwives were temporarily suspended from practice (to prevent the spread of infection) on 10 occasions.

Table 9.

MIDWIVES IN PRACTICE.

At end of year 1946.

Classification.	Trained and Certificated.	Certificated only.	Uncertificated.	Total.
Employed by County Council—				
At Mancot Maternity Home ...	2	1	5	8
At Holywell P.A. Institution ...	1	—	—	1
At St. Asaph P.A. Institution ...	3	—	4	7
At Prestatyn Maternity Home ...	3	1	3	7
As Domiciliary Midwives ...	1	5	—	6
Employed by Voluntary Associations—				
Flintshire Nursing Association ...	9	18	—	27
Royal Alexandra Hospital ...	2	—	—	2
Independent—				
In private practice	12	22	2	36
Total in practice at end of year ...	33	47	14	94

Table 10.

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.

Classification.	Number of Inspections. Routine.	Special.	Total.
Employed by the County Council—			
At the Mancot Maternity Home ...	—	9	9
At the Prestatyn Maternity Home ...	—	7	7
At the St. Aaph P. A. Institution ...	—	2	2
As Domiciliary Midwives	28	104	132
Employed by Voluntary Organisations—			
Royal Alexandra Hospital	1	1	2
Flintshire Nursing Association	111	195	306
Independently employed—			
In Private Nursing Homes	116	28	144
In General Practice	86	46	142
As Unregistered Women	—	17	17
Total Inspections	352	409	761*

* The midwife was inspected while actually at work in 391 of these cases.

The special visits referred to in the foregoing Table were paid mainly for the reasons specified below :—

Table II.

SPECIAL VISITS TO MIDWIVES.

Reason for Special Visitation.	No. of Visits.
Maternal Death Investigation	10
Infant Death Investigation	14
Stillbirth Investigation	15
Puerperal Pyrexia Supervision	72
Ophthalmia Neonatorum Supervision	14
Other Emergencies	192
Non-emergency Special Visits	92
Total Special Visits	409*

* The Midwife was inspected while actually at work in 132 of these cases.

Interviews with the County Medical Officer concerning midwives and midwifery numbered 117 ; visits to prematurely born infants, 152.

OBSTETRIC DIFFICULTIES—The Authority's Consultant was called in during the year in respect of 8 cases of obstetric difficulty.

The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia brought to the Authority's notice was 11, all of whom recovered excepting one.

MATERNAL MORTALITY—3 women died during the year from causes associated with pregnancy or parturition. Of these deaths, none was caused by puerperal sepsis.

STILLBIRTHS—Statistical particulars of the still-births which occurred during the period reviewed are given in an early Section of this Report.

Section I.

WELFARE OF INFANTS.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION—Under the provisions of the Notification of Births Act, 2,493 births were notified to the Authority during the year, the figure being made up as follows :—

Table 12.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION.

Births notified during the year.

By whom notified.	Number. Live.	Still.	Total.
Midwives (including Maternity Nurses) ...	1490	41	1531
Medical Practitioners (including Medical Officers)	242	6	248
Parents (or Relatives)	—	—	—
Maternity Homes (County)	665	30	695
Royal Alexandra Hospital	19	—	19
Totals	2416	77	2493

CENTRES—The activities of the Authority's Infant Welfare Centres—now numbering eleven—are given in Table 13.

Table 13.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Summary of Attendances, etc.

Description	Bagillt	Broughton	Buckley	Caergwrle	Flint	Holywell	Mold	Mostyn	Prestatyn	Rhyl	Saltney	Shotton	Total
Number of Sessions held, i.e., number of times Centre opened during the year	49	49	48	48	47	48	49	21	49	49	49	49	555
Children who attended the Centre during the year for the first time and who, on the date of their first attendance, were—													
Aged under 1 year ..	79	66	197	116	174	132	180	47	134	279	97	496	1997
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	4	9	37	44	18	14	20	25	11	37	5	172	396
Total	83	75	234	160	192	146	200	72	145	316	102	668	2393
Children who attended the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year, were—													
Aged under 1 year ..	71	34	125	98	140	112	166	29	192	227	83	112	1389
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	32	115	245	76	145	138	126	61	60	294	127	556	1975
Total	103	149	370	174	285	250	292	90	252	521	210	668	3364
Attendances made at the Centre during the year by children—													
Aged under 1 year ..	456	1311	1702	1971	2351	1550	3338	521	2803	3150	1485	3976	24614
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	199	609	452	448	343	255	381	106	767	637	432	561	5190
Total	655	1920	2154	2419	2694	1805	3719	627	3570	3787	1917	4537	29804

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION—At the end of the year under review, 16 persons were registered as having the care of children within the meaning of Section 206 of the Public Health Act of 1936, the number of children concerned being (at the end of the year) 20. One death was notified during the year.

As accredited Child Life Protection Visitors the Authority's Health Visitors paid 543 visits to the said children.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN—Notices (5) were received during the year under Section 7 (3) of the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939, in respect of 12 children.

HOME VISITATION—The work of the Authority's Nurses acting in their capacity as Health Visitors is detailed in Table 15 of this Report. From this Table it will be gathered that the Nurses paid an aggregate of 23,041 visits to children under five years of age.

MILK (SUPPLY OF)—No issue of milk was found necessary to supplement the provisions made during the year under the National Cheap Milk Scheme.

Table 14.

THE WORK OF THE COUNTY HEALTH VISITORS.

NOTE—(1) *Except in relation to adult persons, the words "First Visits" throughout this Table mean first visits literally, the infants referred to never having been visited in this County at any time before.* (2) *The work of the County Supervisor of Midwives is excluded herefrom.*

	A.	B.	C.
GENERAL VISITS AND RE-VISITS TO INFANTS.			
Aged under 1 mth.—First Visits (A) ; Re-Vis. (B) ; Total (C)	2357	419	2776
Aged 1 to 12 months do. do. do. ...	92	8129	8221
Aged 1 to 5 years do. do. do. ...	48	11996	12044
Total aged under 5 do. do. do. ...	2497	20544	23041
CONDITIONS FOUND ON FIRST VISITS.			
Feeding—Breast only (A) ; Breast and other (B) ; Other foods only (C)	1402	367	617
INFECTIOUS DISEASES—CASES VISITED, ETC.			
(*Note—This Section relates to infants aged under 5 only*).			
Epid. Diarrhoea—First Visit (A) ; Re-vis. (B) ; Total (C)	31	28	59
Pemphigus Neo. do. do. do. ...	3	—	3
Other Infec. Diseases do. do. do. ...	146	80	226

Table 14 (continued).

	A.	B.	C.
OTHER ROUTINE VISITS.			
Expectant Mothers—First Visits (A) ; Re-vis. (B) ; Total (C)	514	520	1034
Deaths (Under 1 mth.) do. do. do. ...	17	3	20
do. (Aged 1—12 mths.) do. do. do. ...	12	1	13
do. (Aged 1—5 years) do. do. do. ...	7	—	7
SPECIAL ENQUIRIES, INVESTIGATIONS, ETC.			
Doctors' Fees—First Visits (A) ; Re-vis. (B) ; Total (C) ...	397	123	520
Maternity Home Cases do. do. do. ...	27	13	40
Mental Defectives do. do. do. ...	13	6	19
Orthopaedic Cases do. do. do. ...	21	1	22
Infant Life Protection do. do. do. ...	79	456	535
Convalescence do. do. do. ...	4	2	6
Other Enquiries, etc. do. do. do. ...	46	25	71
WELFARE CENTRES.			
Ante-Natal—Attendances by Nurse	—	—	253
Infant Welfare do.	—	—	640
Orthopaedic do.	—	—	66

MORTALITY—Figures relative to the year's deaths of infants aged under one year are given in an early Section of this Report.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—12 cases of "Discharging Eyes" were brought to the Authority's notice during the year under review, and it is gratifying to be able to report complete recovery in every case. Four only of the cases were diagnosed as Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The issue of prophylactic drug to Midwives was continued throughout the year.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT—The number of children who attended the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year was 415. Of these, 150 were under five years of age, and 265 over five but under sixteen years. The attendances of such children totalled 871.

Those who attended for the first time (i.e., new patients) numbered :— Aged under 5, 55 ; aged 5 to 16, 74 ; Total 129.

Of these cases the names of 152 were removed from the books during the year under review.

Section J.—BLIND PERSONS.

The number of Flinthire persons who, on the 31st December, 1946, were registered in the Authority's books as blind, and were being visited by the Home Visitors of the two Blind Welfare Societies, was 226, those supervised by the Chester Society numbering 157, and by the North Wales Society 69.

Section K.—MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

By the courtesy of the Clerk of the County Council, I am able to give below an extract from a return submitted by him to the board of Control giving particulars of Flintshire Mental Defectives as on 1st January, 1947 :—

Table 15.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

Defectives "Subject to be dealt with" by the County Council.

Description.	Aged under 16 years.		Aged over 16 years.		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Persons.
Under "Order":—					
In Institutions	5	3	17	40	65
On Licence from Institutions	—	—	3	3	6
Under Guardianship	—	—	6	1	7
In "Places of Safety"	1	—	—	3	4

The number of defectives "under statutory supervision" at the end of the year was 109, comprising 63 males and 46 females. Of these, 10, at the end of the year, were awaiting removal to an Institution.

There was at the end of the year no known "subject to be dealt with" defective in the County respecting whom action had not been taken under any of the above headings.

Cases notified to the Council by the Local Education Authority during the year numbered 8 (males 5; females 3) and all of these were placed under statutory supervision.

The question of providing institutional accommodation for mental defectives still presents many difficulties not only in this County but throughout the country generally. It is impossible to obtain vacancies, particularly for cases in which mental deficiency is combined with physical disability.

The question of providing a joint institution for the North Wales Counties has been under consideration for many years, but so far without result. Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of institutional accommodation will be the duty of the Regional Hospital Board and it is hoped that this question will receive early consideration by that Board.

The Authority's Institutions at Holywell, Rhyl (Fronfraith), and St. Asaph have been visited by an Inspector of the Board of Control and favourably reported upon.